CORNERSTONECONNECTIONS
DECEMBER112021

Scripture Story: Luke 24:13-34.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages* or *Humble Hero,* chapter 83.

journeying with Jesus



Photo by Alden Ho

flashlight

"Christ never forces His company upon anyone. He interests Himself in those who need Him. Gladly will He enter the humblest home, and cheer the lowliest heart. But if men are too indifferent to think of the heavenly Guest, or ask Him to abide with them, He passes on. Thus many meet with great loss. They do not know Christ any more than did the disciples as He walked with them by the way" (*The Desire of Ages,* p. 800).

keytext

"Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. . . . And they said to one another, 'Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?'"

(Luke 24:30-32, NKJV)

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what do you think?

Agree or Disagree

The disciples, having been eyewitnesses to Christ, had an easier time believing and being faithful than followers today. Explain.

What is more helpful for believing: a firsthand experience, or having the Bible and all of history to testify on Jesus' behalf? Do you ever think that if you could have been there and seen Jesus, your faith in Him would be stronger?

did you know?

Perhaps one of the greatest ironies is couched in the word the disciples used for their fellow traveler. The word *paroikeis*, typically translated "visitor," means to inhabit a place as a stranger. Another way to say it is: "Is it possible that you are the only one who doesn't have a clue about what is going on here?" But in truth, as you'll read in the story for this week, Jesus was more *at home* with understanding than the two disciples.

INTO THE STORY

"Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.

"And He said to them, 'What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?'

"Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, 'Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?'

"And He said to them, 'What things?'

"So they said to Him, 'The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see.'

"Then He said to them, 'O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?' And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

"Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. But they constrained Him, saying, 'Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.' And He went in to stay with them.

"Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

"And they said to one another, 'Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?'"

(Luke 24:13-32, NKJV)

OUT OF THE STORY

Read the story and *underline* the phrases that you think are key to understanding the interchange between Jesus and the two disciples.

How does the Bible describe their attitude? What do they do and say that reveals their emotional state?

Why do you think Jesus is not immediately recognized? Is it because Jesus is concealing His identity, or are they so confused that they don't see who He is?

When the disciples said, "We thought He was the *one* who would redeem Israel," what other way could this happen other than Christ dying?

What do you think changed in their understanding of Christ and His death when Jesus taught them from the Scriptures as they walked? What in particular do you think made their hearts burn?

When Christ broke the bread, what images do you think went through their minds? What do you think is the message God has for you in this passage?

punch lines

"And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all" **(Acts 4:33, NKJV).**

"From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day" **(Matthew 16:21, NKJV).**

"When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, 'Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead'" **(Matthew 17:8, 9, NKJV)**

"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone" **(Hebrews 2:9, NKJV).**

"For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known" **(1 Corinthians 13:12, NKJV).**

further insight

"The miracles of Christ are a proof of His divinity; but a stronger proof that He is the world's Redeemer is found in comparing the prophecies of the Old Testament with the history of the New."

—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages,* p. 799

connectingtolife

Sabbath

Read Acts 4:33.

Read and respond to the voting question in the *What Do You Think?* section of this week's lesson. Many think that being there would enhance the evidence so much that less faith would be required to believe. Is that how it works?

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How can we believe in the Resurrection today with the same kind of faith and passion as believers did back then–perhaps even more? Explain.

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Sunday

Read Matthew 16:21.

Read the *Into the Story* section and use the questions in the *Out of the Story* section to guide you through this amazing story. What parts of this story were new to you? How do you think this story helps believers today who struggle with having all the right information but still miss the Savior? What lesson or insight did you gain from this story that might change the way you see Christ in your everyday life? How can you pay attention to Him as you walk each day?

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Monday

Read Luke 24:30-32.

The *Key Text* this week emphasizes the way God's word brings clarity to our minds and feels like a warm light burning within us.

When in your life has God's Word illuminated your mind with clarity and warmed your heart with purpose? Think about some of the revelations you have witnessed in the Bible. If you had to choose three stories from Scripture that clarify God's purpose and plan for your life, what three stories would you choose? Write them down and send them to a friend or someone you know who might be struggling. Share your story of going from confusion to clarity.

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Tuesday

Read Matthew 17:8, 9.

Read the quote in the *Flashlight* section and ruminate on the times in your life when you were "indifferent" to God's voice and presence. How did you emerge from the fog of apathy? Think of someone you know who persistently tries to see Christ in everyday life. Invite them to share with you what they do to fight apathy from clouding their vision of Christ.

Wednesday

The *Punch Lines texts* in this week's lesson capture how important the resurrection is to the Christian faith. Included in the listed verses are a couple that show how Christ clearly foretold the disciples of the Resurrection. How could they forget? Even the Pharisees remembered Christ's promise to rise from the dead (Matthew 27:62-66). Which verse speaks to you personally?

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Thursday

Read Hebrews 2:9.

Take a several-mile hike this week—either by yourself or with a friend—not simply for exercise, but to deepen your understanding. Simply talk about all the events of the life of Christ that are meaningful to you. Think and imagine the trial where the disciples recaptured the fire of their faith by listening to God's Word. Bring your Bible and read from the last moments of Christ's life. Take the time to get clear about who He is and what He longs to do in your heart. Confess the things that tend to get in the way of His leading in your life. Stay focused on this for several miles and see what emerges.

Friday

Read 1 Corinthians 13:12.

How does God reveal Himself to you? Think about the events in your life in which God has shown Himself to you in unmistakable ways. Did clarity come immediately or as part of a longer process? Imagine the experiences of others such as Saul/Paul or Thomas and how they got to a point where they were sure in their faith in Christ.

How is the Resurrection relevant today?

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Pray for an opportunity to testify to this event with someone this week.

this week's reading*

The Desire of Ages or *Humble Hero*, chapter 83.

**Humble Hero* is a special adaptation of *The Desire of Ages*, created for you by the Ellen G. White Estate and Pacific Press. Get more information about it at http://www.cornerstoneconnections.net/article/191/about-us/conflict-of-the-ages-companion-books#.URIhF1rBO9s. By following the weekly reading plan, you will read at least one book of the Conflict of the Ages series each year.

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